

We claim:

1. A combination window and video display system
comprising:

5 a switchable screen mounted between two adjacent rooms;
said screen being selectively switchable between a window
mode, in which the screen is substantially transparent, and a
screen mode, in which the screen is at least partially
reflective; and
10 a projector for projecting an image onto said screen when in
said screen mode.

2. The combination window and video display system of
claim 1 wherein said screen is mounted in a wall.

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3. The combination window and video display system of
claim 1 wherein said screen is a part of a window assembly.

4. The combination window and video display system of
20 claim 3 wherein said window assembly includes at least one pane
of glass in addition to said screen.

5. The combination window and video display system of
claim 1 wherein said screen is selectively switched at a location
25 remote from said screen.

6. The combination window and video display system of claim 1 wherein said screen is switched to the window mode by applying an electrical potential to said screen.

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7. The combination window and video display system of claim 1 wherein the screen is switched to the screen mode by removing an electrical potential from the screen.

10 8. The combination window and video display system of claim 1 wherein said screen, when in the screen mode, is at least partially translucent so that a projected image can be viewed from either of the two rooms simultaneously.

15 9. The combination window and video display system of claim 1 wherein said screen is a suspended particle device.

10. A method of displaying a video program in two rooms simultaneously comprising the steps of:

20 (a) mounting a screen between the two rooms, said screen being partially reflective and partially translucent; and,

(b) displaying the video program on the screen such that the program can be viewed from either side of said screen and thus from either of the two rooms simultaneously.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the video program is projected onto the screen.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein, prior to step (b), the method further comprises:

switching the screen from a window mode, where the screen is substantially transparent, to a screen mode, wherein the screen is at least partially reflective.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the screen is disposed in a wall.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the screen is a part of a window.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the window includes at least one pane of glass in addition to the screen.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the switching is performed remote from the screen.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the switching is performed by removing an electrical potential from the screen.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein, after step (b), the method further comprises:

switching the screen from the screen mode to the window mode.

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19. The method of claim 18, wherein the switching is performed by applying an electrical potential to the screen.

20. The method of claim 10, wherein the program displayed in a first room of the two rooms is a mirror image of the program displayed in a second room of the two rooms.

21. The method of claim 10, wherein the screen is a suspended particle device.

22. A window assembly for installation in a wall separating two adjacent rooms of a building, said window assembly comprising:

at least one pane constructed of a material that is selectively switchable between a first mode, wherein said pane is substantially transparent to provide a view of each room from the adjacent room, and a second mode wherein said pane is at least partially reflective; and,

a projector for projecting an image onto said screen when said screen is in the second mode.

23. The window assembly as claimed in claim 22 and wherein
said screen, when in the second mode, is at least partially
translucent so that the image is visible from each of said
5 adjacent rooms.

24. The window assembly of claim 22 and wherein said screen
is a suspended particle device.

10 25. The window assembly of claim 22 and further comprising
at least one pane of transparent material that is not switchable.